

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter August 2022

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OTC COLA Events Planned for 2022

OTC COLA has several events planned for 2022. Some events will be conducted in collaboration with regional organizations and agencies.

- August 18, 2022- OTC COLA Member Annual Meeting
 - Spencer McGrew, Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist
- August 18, 2022 to October 10, 2022 We Are Water Exhibit

[John Kruse, OTC COLA Administrative Assistant](#)

Otter Tail County Property Values Soar

The 2022 property assessment in Otter Tail County for taxes payable in 2023 saw unprecedented value increases for all property types. Residential/Seasonal property values saw increases in the 20-30% range and may have been even higher for lake properties. There were also increases to agricultural, recreational and commercial/industrial properties. These increases may have been smaller but still reflected a strong market.

[MORE](#)

[Kevin Scheidecker](#), Otter Tail County Assessor
218-998-8010



Demand For Lake Lifestyle Increasing

pelicanrapidspress.com

“Urbanization” of lakeshore areas brings a flood of environmental issues, from stormwater runoff into the lakes—to increased boat activity to road traffic. Wastewater—what to do with it and how to treat it on densely developed shorelines—is perhaps the top urban issue.

Pelican Lake, with more than 1,200 developed parcels, is among the most “urban” of the Otter Tail-Becker lakes area.

Sewage treatment in densely developed neighborhoods is prompting an engineering report and feasibility study. Concerned about limited on-site treatment capacity and soil conditions, the Pelican Group of Lakes Improvement District is on the verge of pulling the trigger for a Pelican Lake-wide study. Grants and financing are being considered.

[MORE](#)



Bus Tour Earns Enthusiastic Accolades

Participants in the July 11, 2022 Bus Tour to Lake Koronis expressed their appreciation by favorably responding to a survey. The bus tour provided the opportunity to see the the drastic effects caused by starry stonewort. Forty lake property owners, county legislators and members of lake organizations were in attendance. The tour included visiting sites on Lake Koronis with high levels of infestation.

The event was sponsored and organized by the Otter Tail County AIS Task Force and the Otter Tail County Coalition Of Lake Associations. After the Tour, the follow-up survey was sent to the participants.

[Starry Stonewort Bus Tour survey responses](#)



AIS Research Update Receives Rave Reviews

Attendees at the MAISRC Research Center Research Update on June 9, 2022 responded to the the follow-up survey sent out after the event.

The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) update in Detroit Lakes Minnesota was attended by nearly 100 lake property owners, lake organization representatives and other lake stakeholders in Minnesota. Presentations from University of Minnesota Scientists informed attendees of current developments in combating AIS in the state.

[MAISRC Update Survey Responses](#)

[MAISRC Event Program](#)



MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE
SPECIES RESEARCH CENTER

MAISRC July 2022 Newsletter

As I see the latest cutting-edge research, I remain optimistic that we can solve our AIS problems. The new discoveries and creation of tools will continue to change the way we manage AIS in Minnesota. The researchers at MAISRC are excited to share these findings with you at our upcoming Research and Management Showcase. We will have virtual presentations all day on September 21st, and optional in-person tours of our state-of-the-art

Containment Laboratory on September 22nd and 24th. [Read more.](#)

Dr Nick Phelps
MAISRC Director

[MORE](#)

Volunteers Needed For Starry Trek 2022

Lake-loving volunteers are needed across the state of Minnesota on Saturday, August 20, 2022 to participate in a search for [starry stonewort](#)—an aggressive, aquatic invasive algae that can spread easily and grows into dense mats at and below the lake's surface.

[MORE](#)

[Starry Trek 2022 Poster](#)



Spencer McGrew

OTC COLA Annual Meeting

The 2022 OTC COLA Annual Meeting will be held at the Ottertail Community Center in Ottertail Minnesota, 7:00 p.m. August 18, 2022.

The evening will include a short business agenda, and a featured lake association segment on Round Lake 56-0214.

The featured speaker will be Spencer McGrew, Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist, Otter Tail County AIS Task Force. Spencer will report on the activities of watercraft inspectors in 2022 and will talk about the innovative cleaning station introduced by Otter Tail County.

COLA Members as well as other Otter Tail County lake property owners are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be provided prior to the meeting. You are welcome to come early and enjoy the fellowship and networking with other lake property owners.



OTTER TAIL COUNTY – MINNESOTA

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION

**2021 PROGRAM
SUMMARY**

[OTC COLA AIS Prevention 2021 Report](#)

AIS Update August, 2022

- Starry Stonewort Bus Tour to Lake Koronis
- Starry Trek August 20, 2022
- Hybrid cattail removal project August 18, 2022

[MORE](#)

[Spencer McGrew](#), OTC AIS Specialist



WE ARE WATER MN Opening Ceremony

Otter Tail County, the county with more lakes than any other county in the nation, is thrilled to invite you to the opening celebration for [We Are Water Minnesota](#), an exhibition exploring the connections we all share with water. The We Are Water MN-Otter Tail County exhibit will be showcased in the [Fergus Falls Public Library](#) from August 18 through October 10, 2022.

August 18th Opening Ceremony Agenda

5:00 p.m. Exhibit Preview

6:00 p.m. Program Begins

7:00 p.m. Reception

We Are Water MN is led by the Minnesota Humanities Center in partnership with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Minnesota Historical Society, the Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

[MORE](#)

[We Are Water Poster](#)

[We Are Water Press Release](#)



Declining Water Levels Affect Boat Launches

Low water levels, resulting from below-average rainfall in much of the southern third of Minnesota in June and July, are making boat launching and retrieval challenging at many lakes and rivers, especially in the Twin Cities metro area.

When water levels decline, less of the boat ramp is underwater, which reduces the length of the ramp available for a successful launch. As a result, there is a greater chance of backing a trailer past the end of the ramp when launching. Ramps can be extended in some places to reduce this risk, but this is not effective where shallow water persists well beyond the boat ramp.

[MORE](#)

[DNR Accepting Applications- Fisheries, Wildlife Advisory Committees](#)

Minnesotans can apply online through Sept. 16 to serve on several committees that advise the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources about fisheries and wildlife topics.

The DNR is seeking applicants to fill open seats on the Deer Advisory Committee, the Mille Lacs Fisheries Advisory Committee, the Minnesota R3 Council (R3 stands for recruiting, retaining and reactivating hunters and anglers), and the state's five fisheries work groups (bass, catfish, northern pike and muskellunge, panfish, and walleye).

[MORE](#)



[AIS * Water Quality * Administration * Regulation](#)

Featured Posts - August 2022

- [Power Loading](#)
- [Steps To Write A Lake Management Plan](#)
- [Shoreland Management And Development](#)

www.lakeadmin.org

AIS Task Force Minutes

- [July 14, 2022](#) (Draft)

OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [July 12, 2022](#)

Instant Access Links

- [Newsletter Article Index](#)- Visually scan article titles from all OTC COLA E-Newsletters from 2018.
- [Water Quality Analysis Reports \(2021 samples\)](#)- Individual reports for 60 OTC COLA Lakes
- [Lake Property Owner Directories \(2018\)](#)- Directories by Street and Name for 100 OTC Lakes
- [OTC COLA Brochure](#)- View and/or download the OTC COLA Brochure
- **We want to hear from you!** - Go [HERE](#) to give OTC COLA your comments and suggestions

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[John Kruse](#), OTC COLA Administrative Assistant